

RESOLUTION OF KENTUCKY HORSE RACING COMMISSION
JUNE 9, 2009

WHEREAS, the KHRC is charged with the regulation of all horse racing in the Commonwealth, and the improvement of all breeds of horses in the state, and is currently charged with administering all breeders' incentive programs for all breeds;

WHEREAS, Governor Steve Beshear has noted that Kentucky's horse industry faces significant and growing competition from other states, and purses and breeding programs in competing states have increased substantially, thereby posing a threat to Kentucky's racing and breeding programs for all breeds;

WHEREAS, Kentucky's breeding industry, which is one of Kentucky's largest employers, and its breeding development funds for all breeds, are being adversely impacted by competitive pressures from growing state bred funds in other states which substantially reduce the opportunities for Kentucky bred horses;

WHEREAS, the nonrace breed incentive fund currently operated by the KHRC has been successful in retaining horses in Kentucky and attracting new owners and horses to the nonrace breed industry in Kentucky and Kentucky desires to remain at the forefront in this aspect of the industry that affects all 120 counties of the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, the KHRC has been chronically underfunded and understaffed, which impairs its ability to regulate the industry and fulfill its statutory mandates for all breeds, and Governor Beshear's bill provides a source of funding for the KHRC, and for developmental funding for all breeds in the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, a new source of revenue needs to be provided so that Kentucky can remain competitive with other states ; not only in purses, but also in the funding of breeders' incentive programs for standardbred and thoroughbreds and in the forefront for the nonrace breeds;

WHEREAS, the KHRC believes the industry is in a state of crisis and an immediate and effective economic solution must be offered to stop the decline in Kentucky's Equine Industry;

RESOLVED, the KHRC endorses the concepts expected to be included in Governor Steve Beshear's bill providing for the operation of video lottery terminals associated with approved race tracks, as provided in the bill, and as a means of providing relief to the industry for thoroughbreds, standardbreds, quarterhorses and nonrace breeds.